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AMERICAN VAMPIRE

BEST NEW SERIES 2010 —IGN



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IT'S BEEN
OVER A
DECADE SINCE
I LET MYSELF
GO LIKE THIS.



IT'S SHOCKING HOW EASY IT
IS TO GIVE IN TO THE BLOOD
AFTER ALL THIS TIME--THE
HUNGER, AND EVEN MORE
SHOCKING IS HOW
DOWNRIGHT GOOD IT FEELS.

IMAGINE EVERY CELL
IN YOUR BODY IS AN
ELECTRIC LIGHT BULB,
AND THEY'RE ALL LIT
UP AT ONCE.



BUT BENEATH IT ALL IS THIS FEAR. THE FEAR THAT THIS TIME HENRY WILL SEE ME FOR WHAT I REALLY AM. HE'LL SEE HOW MUCH I'M ENJOYING THIS, HOW MUCH FUN I'M HAVING.

I TELL MYSELF THAT THIS IS SILLY. BECAUSE HE WAS THERE WITH ME IN HOLLYWOOD. HE FOUGHT BY MY SIDE. HE KNOWS.

BUT THE FEAR IS STILL THERE, BECAUSE WHAT IF IT DIDN'T SINK IN FOR HIM BACK THEN? WHAT IF THIS TIME, HE FINALLY REALIZES--HE MARRIED A MONSTER?

AND WHAT IF HE'S ALREADY THINKING ABOUT LEAVING ME, ABOUT HOW SOON HE CAN GET OUTT WHAT IF IN HIS OWN MIND, HE'S ALREADY GONE?

HENRY?

"HENRY,
WHERE ARE
YOU?"



GO ON. RUN. CAN'T RUN
FAST ENOUGH...



YOU CAN'T RUN FAST ENOUGH
TO HIDE FROM ME.



CRUNCH

"THERE ISN'T ENOUGH
ROAD IN THE WORLD."

I'M SORRY,
MISS, BUT IT'S
JUST NOT WHAT
WE TRADE IN.

MR. ROY, I KNOW AT FIRST GLANCE
ITEMS LIKE THESE MIGHT SEEM OUT
OF PLACE IN YOUR STORE, BUT YOU
DO HAVE WOMEN CUSTOMERS,
DON'T YOU?

FROM TIME
TO TIME, BUT
THEY'RE WIVES OF
FARMERS AND
RANCH-HANDS.

AND BECAUSE THEIR HUSBANDS
ARE MEN OF THE LAND, THAT
MEANS THESE WOMEN, YOUR
CUSTOMERS, DON'T THINK ABOUT
BEAUTY? BECAUSE I CAN
PROMISE YOU, MR. ROY...

ding-
ding

...IN THIS
HARSHEST OF
REGIONS, A
WOMAN IS STILL
A WOMAN.

DELICATE,
VULNERABLE...

...IN NEED
OF PROTECTION,
ESPECIALLY WHEN
IT COMES TO
HER... FACE.

MY
GOD...



MORNING!

WHAT--WHAT
HAPPENED TO
YOU?

ME? OH, NOTHING.
JUST OUT FOR A
MORNING STROLL.

YOU GOT
ANYTHING IN A
SIZE 4?

SHE'S
DELICIOUS.
GET HER SOME
WATER!



LET'S GET YOU
CLEANED UP, MISS, AND
FORGIVE ME IF I'M
BEING BOLD, BUT IF YOU
WANT, BEFORE THE
POLICE ARRIVE, I CAN
SHOW YOU HOW
TO COVER THAT
MARK...

ON YOUR
FACE?

WHAT...



...MARK?



FEARRRR!!!



SCREEEE

KATATATATATT

KRRSSHH

ALL RIGHT
YOU GONS OF
BITCHES...

"...LET'S MAKE
THIS UGLY."

"WHEN
YOU'VE HIT THE
TRAIN ANWHILE,
SEEMS YOU
RARELY SEE A
SMILE..."

"THAT'S WHY
I MUST FLY OUT
YONDER, WHERE A
FROWN IS MIGHTY
HARD TO FIND!"

"OH...
CALIFORNIA,
HERE I
COME..."



WHAT, NO
APPLAUSE?



WHERE
ARE YOU,
DAMMIT.
WHERE--

OH NO...
NO, NO,
NO.

HENRY!!!
CAN YOU
HEAR ME?

HENRY,
PLEASE...

SCREEEE



"...ARE YOU
OUT THERE?

I'LL HAND IT TO YOU, PEARLIE,
THIS PLACE--IT'S VERY YOU.

MEANING, IT'S PRETTY--
IN A PLAIN, BORING OLD
SORT OF WAY.



I REMEMBER WHEN WE FIRST
DISCOVERED IT TOGETHER.
DRIVING AROUND THAT WEEKEND
IN BIG ELIE'S CAR, WHICH WE
HAD TO PAY HER TO BORROW.



TWO EXPLORERS
WANDERING AROUND
CALIFORNIA WITH A
MAP ON THE DASH.

WE ATE LUNCH BY THE LAKE
BEHIND TOWN, AND WE TOOK
THAT BIG PHONOGRAPH OUT
FROM THE BACK SEAT AND
LISTENED TO AL JOLSON
WHILE WE ATE.



AND I REMEMBER YOU
TOLD ME THAT THIS WAS
IT. THIS WAS THE TOWN
YOU'D MOVE TO WHEN
YOU FINALLY LEFT
HOLLYWOOD. RIGHT HERE.

I TOLD YOU TO
COUNT ME OUT.
YOU COULD FIND
YOURSELF A NEW
ROOMMATE WHEN
THAT DAY CAME.



AND YOU WINKED AT ME
AS YOU BIT INTO YOUR
SANDWICH--I STILL
REMEMBER--AND YOU
SAID... "HAT, MY DOOR
WILL ALWAYS BE OPEN."

NOW I JUST HAVE
TO FIGURE OUT WHICH
DOOR IS YOURS.









"...JUST GET
MY OLD
BONES HOME."









"THE COAST,
HUNT?"



"YES, I REMEMBER NOW. WE WERE STILL
JUST CONSIDERING THE HOUSE, I ASKED HER
WHY THEY WERE IN SUCH A HURRY TO MOVE..."



"...AND THEY
LOOKED AT EACH
OTHER, AND THEN
SHE SAID TO ME,
OH, THE
NEIGHBORHOOD'S
JUST GETTING A
LITTLE CROWDED
FOR OUR TASTE."

"WHICH STRUCK ME AS A
PECULIAR THING TO SAY
ABOUT THIS AREA..."



"...MY GUESS IS THAT THEY
MOVED BECAUSE THEY
JUST WANTED TO BE
SOMEWHERE A LITTLE
MORE LIVELY, WITH MORE
ACTION AND ADVENTURE..."



"...SOMEWHERE WITH A LITTLE BITE, YOUR FRIEND PROBABLY JUST SAID WHAT SHE DID TO AVOID OFFENDING THE OLD FOGIES.



"THEY LEFT US THIS NICE PHONOGRAPH AS A HOUSEWARMING GIFT THOUGH. SAID THEY'D MOVED ON TO A NEWER MODEL WITH BETTER SOUND.



"DEAR? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? THERE'S... SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOUR EYES..."

OH PEARLIE, LOOKS LIKE
I JUST MISSED YOU.

THAT'S OKAY
THOUGH.

I'LL CATCH UP
TO YOU SOON
ENOUGH.
MEANWHILE...

...I'VE GOT
GOOD MUSIC
TO LISTEN TO...

YOU
WANDER
WHEREVER
YOU WANT.
HIGH. LOW.
LEFT.
RIGHT.

...I'VE GOT GAS
IN MY TANK...

WANTED
A SPARKLING
COMIC
REVUE

"THE WAY OUT"

PART TWO OF TWO

SCOTT SNYDER WRITER MATEUS SANTOLUOCO ARTIST
DAVE MCCAIG COLORS STEVE WANDS LETTERS
COVER BY RAFAEL ALBUQUERQUE
MARK DOYLE EDITOR

AMERICAN VAMPIRE
CREATED BY SCOTT SNYDER

AND ALL THE TIME
IN THE WORLD...

Next:
"Strange
Frontier."

ON THE

LEDGE



BRIAN WOOD

Eisner-nominated writer BRIAN WOOD has become one of the most important indie creators of the last decade with standout works including DEMO, LOCAL, DMZ and NORTHLANDERS.



BY BRIAN WOOD

SOME YEARS BACK, I wrote a book for the Minx imprint called **THE NEW YORK FOUR**. Ryan Kelly, a friend and collaborator, drew the hell out of it. The original plan for the thing was ambitious: four volumes (at least), about these four young women, navigating college life in New York City.

Angie, Riley, Lona, Merissa, Ren, and Frank — our cast — really grew on me. I know Ryan feels the same way. Even though Young Adult's not a genre I'm always immediately associated with, this is some of the best comics we've done. **THE NEW YORK FIVE** picks up right where the first volume left off.

It's hard for me to talk about this project without making it so much about Ryan, and the working relationship he and I have. I think back to 2004-5 when I was looking for an artist to partner with on the book **LOCAL** I wanted to do, and it ended up being Ryan almost by accident. But obviously it was a good match, and we push each other to make better comics. I tend to give him tough, hyper-detailed pages to draw, and he turns around pages that I feel are (or should be, dammit!) the envy of the industry. Since **LOCAL**, we've done some **DMZ**, some **NORTHLANDERS**, and then **THE NEW YORK FOUR/FIVE** project. I have a pitch on my desktop for a new thing for us to do, because why on earth would I ever stop working with Ryan?

Special thanks also go out to our editor Shelly. Some trivia: this new series was originally a 6-issue mini, at the standard 22-pages per. At some point after I had written the first three and Ryan had drawn the first two issues, we decided it would be better bang for your buck if it were four 32-page stories. The idea of taking the 60+ pages I had already written and figuring this out was just too daunting. So Shelly took all the completed pages, called up her old film-editing skills and re-cut all of it, shifting entire scenes around, and somehow making it better than it was before.

THE NEW YORK FIVE is out on January 26th. Many thanks to everyone at DC for letting us back.

—Brian

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